

# Million Germans Force British Armies Beyond Somme; Americans Join Battle

## Gun Shelling Paris Located 76 Miles Away

Monster Cannon Is in St. Gobain Forest, West of Laon

## Capital Bombarded Again for 5 Hours

Shells Fall Every Twelve Minutes, but City Remains Calm

BERLIN (via London), March 24.—“We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long-distance guns,” says the official war statement given out here this evening.

PARIS, March 24.—The German “monster cannon” which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris City Hall.

The gun bombarded Paris during the greater part of to-day (Sunday). The day was ushered in by loud explosions from the 10-inch shells, and immediately the alarm to take cover was sounded. This occurred at 6:55 o'clock and many persons sought shelter, but greater numbers of them appeared in the streets on their way to the churches, which were almost as well filled as usual. The women who sell palm leaves on Palm Sunday did their usual thriving business.

As first the shells began arriving at intervals of twenty minutes, and the detonations, considering the Sunday calm, seemed louder than those of Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the populace, however, seemed less, the people refusing to be distracted from their Sunday habits, to any great extent.

Bombardment Ends at 1 o'clock

For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken through the line and were bombarding Paris from nearby positions, a semi-official note was issued during the day. This warned the people against believing pessimistic reports.

“The French front is intact,” said the note. “Any assertion to the contrary is a lie.”

The bombardment of the capital ended around 1 o'clock, and as late as 3 o'clock no explosions had been heard for more than an hour. The “clear signal” was sounded at 3:30 o'clock.

Although during the earlier hours of the bombardment the shells arrived at twenty-minute intervals, later in the day they began arriving every fifteen minutes on the average, and some of them even fell twelve minutes apart.

## Comments of French Press

The comments of the French press this morning were about the same as between the big gun which is bombarding the city from back of the German lines and the terrific battle raging on the British front. The tone of the comment on the bombardment is one of astonishment at the feasibility of the performance, while as to the battle, the favorable ending of it is confidently expected.

The newspapers do not conceal their admiration for the mechanical feat of the Germans in constructing their new weapon, but speak passionately of the useless barbarity of the bombardment. The “Matin” says it is consoling to note that the number of victims is small, but it asks for reprisals on German cities.

Professor Paul Painlevé, former Premier and president of the Academy of Science, told the “Excelsior” that the invention of the tungsten shell was the project of the tungsten shells would be of about half the diameter of steel shells of an even weight, and that therefore the atmospheric resistance would be less, this accounting for the extremely long range. He also touched upon the possibility of a propeller being employed on the projectile.

## Of No Military Value

Alfred Capus, in the “Figaro,” alludes to the making of the gun as a great mechanical feat, but points out that as a military factor the weapon is entirely inefficient. The “Petit Parisien” comments upon the bombardment as an extremely minor incident in progress on the British front.

“Le Petit Journal” says that Jules Verne had foreseen this gun, and it declares moreover that it is a French addition, “More than a year ago,” it adds, “we discovered the secret of firing our cannon more than 100 kilometres. The secret lies in the greater suppression of the atmospheric resistance.” The “Echo de Paris” declares the bombardment is designed to give the impression that Paris is within the range of the German guns. “It is a political cannon,” the newspaper says.

Premier Clemenceau's newspaper, “l'Homme Libre,” says that the passing of the hour is confidence. “Germany,” it declares, “that suits us, make it a complete offensive on all fronts—the land, water and air fronts, as well as the front of the rear.” We are facing an enemy who wishes to end it as soon as possible. That suits us. Every shell that falls into Paris drives deeper into the confidence in an ultimate victory.

## Battle Won by Grace of God, Kaiser Reports to the Empress

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—The Berlin “Tageblatt” says that when Field Marshal von Hindenburg received the first telegrams reporting on the offensive he remarked to Emperor William: “Well, your majesty, I think we may be well pleased with this initial success.”

The newspaper adds that the date for the offensive was fixed long ago and began at exactly the time set, even to the hour.

Another dispatch from Berlin says the German Empress has received the following telegram from Emperor William: “I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May He further help.”

## Two U-Boats Are Sunk by U. S. Vessels

Steamship Floridian Sinks One and Destroyer Another

AN ATLANTIC PORT, March 24.—Two U-boats were sunk by American ships in the past fortnight, nine prisoners from one submarine being brought to a French port, according to passengers arriving here to-day on French and British liners.

The German prisoners were taken by the crew of the steamship Floridian, after the latter had sent the submarine to the bottom. They are the first U-boat prisoners of the war falling into American hands. The second undersubmarine was accounted for by an American destroyer, conveying one of the liners reaching this port to-day.

W. S. Hembling, returning from France, a representative of the United States Army Ordnance Department, brought the first eye-witness story of the arrival of the captured German sailors at the French port. His account was vouched for in every detail by two companions.

“I was at the dock when the Floridian reached France on March 12,” said Hembling. “I saw nine German sailors being hustled down the gangplank and they did not receive any too gentle treatment.”

“It was told that two days before, on March 10, the Floridian had been attacked by the U-boat. From all accounts, meagre because of the censorship, the Floridian rendered the submarine helpless with a few shots, then sent her to the bottom.”

“The captain of the submarine, according to the captured sailors, stuck to his post until he saw that capture was inevitable. Then he ended his life by sending a bullet into his brain. All of the crew, with the exception of the nine prisoners, were drowned. The nine made up the gun crew of the U-boat, and were on deck when they were picked up by the Floridian's crew while struggling in the water.”

The Floridian was of the American-Hawaiian Line, before she was transferred to the transatlantic service.

The second submarine, sunk by the American destroyer, showed its periscope a short time ago from the starboard bow. Almost simultaneously the periscope was seen by the destroyer nearest it.

The destroyer quit the convoy at the alarm, and made full speed for the spot where the submarine had been sighted. The undersubmarine had vanished as quickly as it appeared, but the destroyer reached the spot, and dropped a heavy depth charge.

The liner, which was speeding on its way, was shaken throughout its length by the concussion of the charge, and passengers, roused from their sleep, came on deck in alarm. After the first charge the destroyer was seen to circle about the spot, then let down a second bomb. It quickly appeared on the surface of the sea, and the destroyer rejoined the convoy, satisfied that a hit had been registered, and the U-boat went instantly to the bottom or her seams opened so badly she could not rise again.

## Explosion Wrecks Part of Chemical Plant in Newark

NEWARK, N. J., March 24.—An explosion, possibly caused by enemy aliens, wrecked a “washing building” of the Butterworth-Judson Chemical Company's plant at Avenue I to-night and started a fire that consumed six buildings before it was brought under control.

An electric wire found leading from the ruins of the “washing building” to a spot out on the meadows has led the police to believe that the disaster was of incendiary origin.

Seventeen men are employed in the building, which is used for the purpose of washing impurities from picric acid. Two of these, William Butterworth, chief electrician, and Patrick Flynn, were slightly injured.

The fire, which started in the ruins, jumped to neighboring frame buildings and rapid work by the fire department alone saved the entire plant from destruction. The structures consumed are one-story affairs about 100 feet long by 30 wide. The plant is composed of sixty of these isolated units.

Damage has not been estimated. The Butterworth-Judson plant is only a few hundred yards from the Federal Shipyard.

## Foe Says U.S. Troops Aiding British Failed

Berlin Announces Counter Attack by Franco-Americans Was Repulsed

## Rushed to Stem Drive at Chauny

Town Later Taken; Participation of Pershing's Men Unconfirmed

LONDON, March 24.—American regiments taking part with French and British units in a counter attack on the advancing Germans before Chauny were thrown back, Berlin announced officially to-day. A later statement by the enemy said Chauny had been captured.

The Berlin statement that United States troops had been engaged in opposing the great offensive as yet has not been confirmed from any other source.

The German statement probably is true, however, for an American division of New England troops has been training with the French on the Chemin-des-Dames, only a dozen miles in an air line from La Fere, the southern limit of the German offensive front. Chauny is on the Oise River, seven miles southwest of La Fere. To reach it the Germans advanced about five miles from the positions before the offensive.

The British and French lines before the offensive are understood to have joined at La Fere. On Saturday the Germans officially reported forcing a crossing of the Oise west of this city. As the British right fell back before the German masses the French left wing would have to withdraw simultaneously or the enemy would have an opportunity to encircle it. The French presumably would then reinforce this point with troops taken from the line further east or from the reserves in the rear. This they seem to have done, selecting certain American regiments for this duty.

It is going too far to say certainly, however, that these regiments came from the Chemin-des-Dames. They may have been fresh regiments.

Londons eagerly discussed the participation of American troops in the fighting to-day. The American Embassy here stated it was entirely without confirmation of the German statement and could not say whether United States troops had been engaged.

## British Flyers Shoot Down 54 Enemy Craft

Successful Raids Made on German Towns and Works

LONDON, March 24.—An official report on the aerial operations says that fifty-four enemy airplanes have been brought down.

The text of the statement reads: “The enemy's low-flying airplanes were most persistent in their attacks on our infantry in the forward areas. Many of these machines were attacked and brought down by our pilots. A total of twenty-nine hostile machines were brought down and twenty-five others were driven down out of control. Two enemy balloons also were destroyed. Nine of our machines are missing.”

Our machines on Saturday carried out another successful raid on factories in Mannheim. Nearly one and a half tons of bombs were dropped, and bursts were seen on a soda factory, the railway works and docks.

Several fires were started, one of which was of great size, with flames reaching to a height of 200 feet and smoke to 5,000 feet. The conflagration was visible for a distance of thirty-five miles.

“The weather Saturday again favored our operations, and our airplanes were constantly employed in reconnoitering positions of troops, in photography and bombing and in reporting suitable targets for our artillery. Many thousands of rounds were fired by our pilots from low altitudes on hostile troops massed in villages and in the open continuously throughout the day.”

More than fourteen tons of bombs were dropped on enemy billets, on his high velocity guns and on railroad stations in the battle area.

Our bombing airplanes were attacked by thirty-two hostile machines, and a fierce fight ensued. One of the enemy's airplanes was brought down in flames and another was downed, and fell in the center of Mannheim. Five others were driven down out of control.

“Despite this severe combat and the enemy's heavy anti-aircraft gunfire all our machines returned except two. During the night ten heavy bombs were dropped on an important railway bridge and works at Konz, just south of Trier, in Germany. Eight of these bombs were clearly seen to be bursting among the railway works.”

“Nearly two tons of bombs were dropped from low heights on a hostile airfield south of Metz. Six bombs were seen to burst among the hangars and to set fire to some of the huts of the airfield. All our machines returned.”

“From nightfall until early morning our night flying squadrons bombed areas on the battlefield in which hostile troops were concentrated, as well as enemy ammunition dumps and large guns. More than fourteen tons of bombs were again dropped by our machines, two and a half tons of which were loosed on the docks of Bruges. All our machines returned.”

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA. The Greenbrier, European and Wonderful curative waters. N. Y. Office, The Plaza. —Advt.

THEIR WORK IS ENDED—OURS JUST BEGUN



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## Peronne, Ham And Chauny Have Fallen

Haig Falls Back Slowly as Fight Rages on Fifty-Mile Front

## 30,000 Prisoners Taken, Says Berlin

Enemy's Advance One to Two Miles on Most of Line

The greatest battle in the history of the world continues to rage along a front of more than fifty miles.

The Germans have advanced in a day from one to two miles on most of the front.

Peronne, Ham and Chauny have fallen. The Somme River has been crossed at many places, according to Berlin.

The enemy claims the capture of 30,000 prisoners, 600 guns and enormous booty.

The maximum advance of the enemy is about fifteen miles, directly west of St. Quentin.

Ninety-seven enemy divisions (1,164,000 men) have been thrown into the struggle.

The British are falling back slowly, slaughtering vast numbers. The enemy loss, according to one estimate, is 30 to 50 per cent of the divisions involved (349,200 to 582,000 men).

American regiments, says Berlin, took part in an unsuccessful counter attack before Chauny.

The Germans have recaptured about a third of the area they evacuated in the great retreat to the Hindenburg line in the spring of 1917.

The British 3d, 4th and 5th armies seem to be engaged.

Berlin announced last night that a gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. Another battle is being fought on the Transloy-Comblès-Maurepas line.

Field Marshal Haig announced last night the enemy had been repulsed with heavy losses on the northern part of the line. The Germans had crossed the Rivers Tortille and Somme, he said, and were being heavily engaged to the west of these streams.

Both the British and the Germans state heavy losses have been caused by airplanes firing machine guns and dropping bombs on the heads of massed troops. London announced fifty-four German machines had been brought down.

The Canadians on Friday night directed the greatest gas bombardment ever made on the enemy between Lens and Hill 70, north of the scene of the offensive.

## British Fall Back As Planned; Shock Troops Hold Foe

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 24.—The British and French, who cooperate at the junction of the two armies, were viewing the trend of the German offensive with optimistic eyes this morning. Hard fighting was in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation in favor of the enemy since yesterday, while on the other hand the defenders had pushed the attacking forces back after a bitter struggle and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn.

Fighting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used few troops other than those which were holding the front lines. These shock troops have been making as gallant a defence as was ever recorded in the annals of the British army, and, as a result, they have enabled the main body of the forces to fall back deliberately and without confusion and occupy positions which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

German Losses Appalling

The Germans, on the other hand, operating under the eyes of the Emperor and the Crown Prince, have been hurling vast hordes into the fray with utter disregard for life, and have followed into the abandoned positions, getting further and further away from

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